blocks were delayed. We thought of getting another contracto for the place.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Then what was the objection to call for tenders? You invited tenders for the first four blocks. Where is the objection to call for tenders for the fifth block also from the very beginning? Was there no idea of building the fifth block?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—We thought it would be convenient to have one and the same contraotor for avoiding unhealthy competition. The fifth block was also given to him as the first four blocks and our idea was to get the whole works done through him. But he proved a failure and all the five blocks were delayed.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—(5). Are these contractors experts or have they taken any work in the Department before?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—It is only a very small work for Rs. 1,430.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Then one Vishnu Namburipad (item 30). Namburipads have begun to be contractors (*laughter*).

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.— Vishnu Namburipad is an experienced contractor. He had contracts in the Hill Palace.

Medical Officers kept in the same station without transfer.

66. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state who are the officers in the Medical Department of the State who are kept now for more than three years in the same locality and the special reasons, if any, for doing so?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The attention of the Member is invited to the answer to question No. 231 of the Legislative Session of Kumbham 1104.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know the names of the officers who are kept in the same station at present? The answer is with regard to the state of affairs as it stood on 7th Kumbham 1104. The answer to question No. 231 was given on 7th Kumbham 1104. My question relates to the present state of affairs, just to see whether there is any improvement.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The list is identical, except in the case of Assistant Surgeon C. Narayana Menon of Nemmara.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know whether Doctors Puduval and Verghese have returned and joined duty?

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Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—When ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I cannot give the dates without notice.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Are there any special reasons to keep Doctors Ittoop and Koshi Mathew in the General Hospital now?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes. Koshi Mathew has got special training in X-Ray work. There is no other man in the whole Department who knows that work to replace him who possesses such a special knowledge. In the case of Ittoop he is the Assistant Surgeon who is doing very good work in the General Hospital, and I cannot get another Assistant Surgeon to come to the General Hospital to take his place, and I do not want to get medical officers who are unwilling to stay in Ernakulam for various reasons. So that, the reputation and confidence of the General Hospital established may not suffer from the unwillingness of medical men to serve here. (*Hear, hear.*) Unwilling men will do inefficient work. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The reasons given on the previous occasion are not the reasons to keep them here. This is the answer given on that occasion:—

"Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese. — The answer is given there already. Dr. Ittoop is performing the duties of Dr. Puduval; Dr. Koshi Mathew is performing the duties of Dr. T. Verghese. It is highly necessary that they should continue to remain there now. Then there is only the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Poulose. There is no special necessity for keeping him there. But then I cannot get willing persons to come into the General Hospital to do that work. While there is a subordinate both willing and efficient, I do not know why he should be transferred to some other place."

The reason then given to keep Doctors Ittoop and Koshi Mathew was Dr. Puduval and Dr. T. Verghese were away, and Dr. Poulose was kept because nobody was willing to come. Now it is answered that Dr. Puduval and Dr. Verghese have joined duty. May I know why this shifting of ground ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There is no shifting of ground at all. This question has been asked in this House on more occasions than one and definite answers have been given. I would invite the Hon'ble Member's attention to the Meenam Session of 1102. In answer to the question,—I am quoting the printed Proceedings,—

"I have already brought it to the notice of the Government. Specially for the information of the House I say that in Hospitals, where men have been trained to do some special work, it is quite inadvisable to transfer them once in 3 years. Regard should be had to the excellence of the work carried on in such hospitals, and so it is not advisable to give effect to this rule absolutely. And so, in places like the Trichur Lunatic Asylum and other

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places, where men have learned specialised work, it is not a salutary rule at all."

That is in Meenam 1102. Then again in Vrischigam 1102, this question again has been asked, and I have replied most elaborately.

"Every one of the Assistant Surgeons of the mofussil hospitals represented to me that they would consider it a hardship to work in the General Hospital, because the work is heavy there, and the cost of living high. They also find it difficult to supplement their pay by private practice. As a result of all these, they do not agree. Further, they are doing their work well there. And here is a man who is willing to stay."

I do not see any reason to transfer people, which will, in my opinion, affect the efficiency of work. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know how long these Doctors Ittoop and Mathew have been in the General Hospital?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Ittoop for the last nine years and Koshi Mathew for four years, I think. For the information of the House I may say that the Member on the other side has put in 30 years' service in two places, Ernakulam and Trichur, each 15 years. That is just for the information of the House, that is all.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Dr. Coombes was in charge of the General Hospital for more than 20 years.

Duty on motor spirits.

67. Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they have perused the financial statement of the Government of India presented to the Legislative Assembly on the last day of February 1929;

(2) whether they have noticed the fact that the duty on motor spirit has been increased from 4 as. to 6 as. per gallon and that the increased revenue has been ear-marked to be spent for road development as recommended by the Jayakar Committee;

(3) whether the Government propose to claim a proportionate share of this revenue for the development of roads in the Cochin State seeing that the spirit consumed in this State has correspondingly increased in value on account of the increased duty levied in British India?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) The question of allowing the Indian States a share of the Imperial Customs revenue is engaging the attention of the Government of India. Before that is decided it is unlikely that a special claim for a share of a particular duty will be entertained by that Government. The unfavourable position in

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